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TORRINGTON RURAL DISTRICT

1971

REPORTS

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Chief Public Health Inspector

For the Year ending
31st December, 1971.

GREAT TORRINGTON:
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TORRINGTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Torrington Rural District for 1971

By

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and

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Chief Public Health Inspector and Surveyor.

B. J. DEAN, M A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H. Part Year.
Chief Public Health Inspector and Surveyor.

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Council Chambers,
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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE TORRINGTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, My Lord, Lady and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the area for 1971.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

E. WILLIAMS.

Torrington Rural District

1971

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in acres	79,803
Population (Registrar General's mid-year estimate)	7,680
Number of Inhabited Houses	2,909
Rateable Value	£124,185
Sum realised by a Penny Rate	£502

VITAL STATISTICS

Area Comparability Factors	Births 1.19 Deaths 0.90
Live Births	119
Rate per 1,000 population	15.5
Rate per 1,000 population adjusted	18.4
Illegitimate Live births percent of total Live Births	6%
Still Births	1
Rate per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births	8
Total Live and Still Births	120
Infant Deaths (under 1 year)	2
Infant Mortality Rates:-	
Total Infant Deaths per 1,000 Total Live Births	17
Legitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	18
Illegitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	Nil
Neo Natal Mortality Rate (death under 4 weeks per 1,000 Total Live Births)	Nil
Early Neo Natal Mortality Rate (death under 1 week per 1,000 Total Live Births)	Nil
Peri Natal Mortality Rate (Still Births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births	8
Maternal Mortality (including Abortion)	Nil
Number of Deaths	Nil
Rate per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births	Nil
Deaths	97
Death Rate per 1,000 population	12.6
Death Rate per 1,000 population adjusted	11.3

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS (

Cause of Death	Sex	Tota All A
B19(3) Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	M	1
	F	1
B19(4) Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	M	1
	F	2
B19(6) Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	M	5
	F	1
B19(8) Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	F	1
B19(11)Other Malignant Neoplasms	M	2
	F	5
B46(1) Other Endocrine etc. Diseases	M	1
	F	—
B46(2) Other Diseases of Blood, etc.	M	—
	F	1
B27 Hypertensive Disease	M	—
	F	2
B28 Ischaemic Heart Disease	M	21
	F	8
B29 Other Forms of Heart Disease	M	2
	F	1
B30 Cerebrovascular Disease	M	6
	F	7
B46(6) Other Diseases of Circulatory System	M	1
	F	7
B32 Pneumonia	M	6
	F	3
B33(1) Bronchitis and Emphysema	M	2
	F	—
B34 Peptic Ulcer	M	1
	F	1
B36 Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	M	—
	F	1
B37 Cirrhosis of Liver	M	—
	F	1
B38 Nephritis and Nephrosis	M	1
	F	—
B46(10)Diseases of Skin, Subcutaneous Tissue	M	1
	F	—
B42 Congenital Anomalies	M	—
	F	2
B45 Symptoms and Ill Defined Conditions	M	1
	F	—
BE47 Motor Vehicle Accidents	M	1
	F	—
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	M	53
	F	44

LIFE DURING 1971 IN THE RURAL DISTRICT.

Under 4 Weeks	4 Weeks and under 1 Year	Age in Years								
		1-4	5-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75 and Over
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	2	7	9
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	4
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	4
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	5
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	6
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	5
—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	1	—	1	3	9	12	27
—	2	—	—	—	1	1	1	5	12	22

POPULATION BIRTHS and DEATHS for the RURAL DISTRICT since 1956.

Year	Population	Live Births	Deaths
1956	7392	119	136
1957	7150	105	79
1958	7160	45	75
1959	7130	42	59
1960	7130	28	48
1961	7190	52	46
1962	7190	97	91
1963	7200	86	96
1964	7280	105	86
1965	7280	104	89
1966	7300	111	100
1967	7300	90	82
1968	7320	79	85
1969	7280	108	86
1970	7240	95	108
1971	7680	119	97

BIRTHS

During the year there were 119 live births as compared with 95 in 1970.

Live Births	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	55	57	112
Illegitimate	6	1	7
Still Births			
Legitimate	—	1	1
Illegitimate	—	—	—

DEATHS

The total number of deaths within the Rural District during the year was 97 as compared with 108 in 1970. There was one infant death under the age of 1 year.

Male—53 Female—44 Total—97

There were no deaths of women in childbirth during the year.

CANCER DEATHS

There were 19 deaths from cancer during the year.

		Males	Females
Bowel	...	1	2
Lung	...	5	1
Breast	...	—	—
Stomach	...	1	1
Uterus	. .	—	1
Others	...	2	5

Infectious Diseases

A total of 16 infectious diseases were notified :-

Whooping Cough	1
Scarlet Fever	2
Measles	13

One lung tuberculosis case was notified during the year, and no non-pulmonary cases were reported.

Food Poisoning

No instances of food poisoning were reported.

National Assistance Act, 1948 - Section 47

No compulsory removal of elderly persons from their homes under the above Act occurred during the year.

No cases of undulant fever in humans were reported.

Annual Report of Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector

DETAILS OF VISITS

Number of houses inspected	73
Number of houses re-inspected	18
Keeping of Animals	8
Offensive accumulations	8
Dirty Houses	1
Infectious disease investigation	1
Disinfections	3
Factories & Workshops	19
Bakehouses	6
Other Food Premises	59
Food Inspections (except meat)	6
Water Samples	50
Obstructed or defective drains	92
Drains inspected or tested	107
Council Houses	360
Swill boiling plants	2
Boarding Kennels	4
Offices as shown on O.S.R. 14	84
Plans investigated	356
Building inspections	1,129
Improvement Grant applications	161
Re-visits for improvement grants	204
Sewage works visited	284
Petroleum inspections	12
New Sewerage Schemes	17
Refuse Tips	47
Council Building Sites	281
Caravan Sites etc.	42
Food delivery vans etc.	2
Advertisement control	2
Dangerous structures	18
Abandoned vehicles, bulky refuse etc.	27
Surveys	57
Meat Inspection	94
Planning Appeals	2

FACTORIES ACT, 1961. Part I of the Act.

1—**INSPECTIONS** for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities .. Non-Power	1	1	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority Power	24	17	5	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) Building sites etc.	38	40	3	—
TOTAL	63	58	8	NIL

2—CASES IN WHICH **DEFECTS** WERE FOUND

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	

Overcrowding (S.2)					
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)...					
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)					
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)					
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(*a*) Insufficient	2	2			
(*b*) Unsuitable or defective	6	6			
(*c*) Not separate for sexes					
Other offences (not including offences relating to Outwork)					
TOTAL	8	8	NIL	NIL	NIL

OUTWORK—(Sections 133 and 134). Part VIII of the Act.

Nature of Work	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 133 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Wearing apparel, Making, etc.	20	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL

HOUSING

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :

(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects 73

(2) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation —

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action 25

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :

Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

Nil

New Housing Accommodation Provided

During the year 37 private dwellings were completed, these were constructed in the following parishes.

Alverdiscott	2	Merton	0
Ashreigney	2	Peters Marland	2
Beaford	1	Petrockstowe	6
Buckland Filleigh	0	Roborough ...	0
Dolton & Dowland	3	St. Giles	3
Frithelstock	0	Shebbear	3
High Bickington	1	Sheepwash	0
Huntshaw	0	Weare Giffard	2
Langtree	1	Winkleigh	3
Little Torrington	8	Yarnscombe	0
			37

There were also 20 Council dwellings constructed in the following parishes:—

High Bickington	4
Merton	4
Petrockstowe	2
Weare Giffard	2
Winkleigh	8

Improvement Grants

Applications were received for :-

18 Improvement Grants.

26 Standard Grants.

23 Discretionary Improvement grants were completed during the year at a cost of £16,413 bringing the total up to 224. In addition 21 standard grants were completed at a cost of £5,626 bringing the total up to 401.

The total expenditure to the end of the year was :—

Discretionary grants	£89,004
Standard grants	£62,384
	£151,388

Common Lodging Houses

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the district.

Caravans

There are 3 licensed sites in the district, one at Winkleigh also being licensed for residential use. In addition there are a few individually sited vans that have had planning permission and been licensed for temporary periods. The sites are frequently inspected and generally run in a satisfactory manner. There are also three exempted sites operated by the Caravan Club and the Camping Club, but these are little frequented.

REFUSE COLLECTION

The Council operates a fortnightly refuse collection covering most of the area except for a few isolated farms and cottages. The village of Winkleigh is served weekly. The vehicle used is a Shelvoke & Drewry fore and aft tipper which is manned by two collector-drivers. The refuse is disposed of on two tips at the moment at Winkleigh and Roborough. The vehicle also collects the refuse from litter bins in the villages and on road-side lay-bys.

A number of special journeys were made to various sites for the removal of bulky refuse found deposited by the road sides.

Public demand and increased awareness of public health are contributing to the need for an improvement in this service. The aim must be to provide a weekly back door collection.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The villages of Winkleigh, Shebbear, Sheepwash, Taddiport, St. Giles-in-the-Wood, Kingscott, Roborough, Petrockstowe, Merton, Yarnscombe, Stibb Cross, Little Torrington, Ashreigney, Hollacombe, Weare Giffard and Dolton are now equipped with modern sewerage and sewage disposal systems and High Bickington is in hand. Other villages requiring schemes to complete the Council's programme are Beaford, Langtree, Riddlecombe and Frithelstock. A Scheme for Beaford is being prepared.

These remaining villages have primitive sewage systems which are very unsatisfactory and give rise to nuisances from time to time. Nuisance is also occasionally caused by individual unsatisfactory septic tank effluent disposal and crude discharges. Progress is still much too slow and a greater priority ought to be given to such vital matters, particularly when village development is inhibited.

WATER SUPPLIES

The area is very well served by the North Devon Water Board via a network of mains and all villages and hamlets are supplied. Only remote dwellings now rely on shallow wells for a supply. These often give rise to problems in prolonged dry spells resulting in water having to be carried in.

The following new connections were made during the year :

49 Domestic 16 Trade

The total number of premises now connected to the mains is :

2,012 Domestic 384 Trade

There are no standpipes in the district.

The following is a list of the parishes showing the number of houses connected and an estimate of the population served :—

	No. of houses	*No. of population served*
Alverdiscott	56	173
Ashreigney	109	330
Beaford	108	324
Buckland Filleigh	22	67
Dolton	171	518
Dowland	22	68
Frithelstock	84	254
High Bickington	111	339
Huish	14	42
Huntshaw	33	99
Langtree	126	383
Little Torrington	88	267
Merton	96	292
Peters Marland	59	177
Petrockstowe	87	263
Roborough	45	137
St. Giles	140	425
Shebbear	166	504
Sheepwash	83	250
Weare Giffard	81	246
Winkleigh	298	898
Yarnscombe	51	155

The water is treated at the source to counteract plumbo-solvency. Samples of the water are frequently taken by the Board's officials for chemical and bacteriological examination and the results are notified to the Department.

54 Samples of water were taken from private supplies of which 13 were found to be completely satisfactory. In the case of unsatisfactory supply where a mains supply was available, connection was made; but in many cases of isolated premises the owner/occupier was advised to fit filtration plant or to boil all water before drinking.

A total of 54 visits were made by the Department in connection with water sampling.

RODENT CONTROL

Rodent control work is carried out under contract. Domestic premises are treated free of charge.

The following work was carried out in the Rural District during the year :—

	Non-agricultural
Total number of properties *(including nearby premises)* inspected following notification	26
Number infested by *(i)* rats	24
(ii) mice	2
Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	6
Number infested by *(i)* rats	—
(ii) mice	6

No sewers were infested by rats during the year.

There is a need for the continued use of Zinc-Phosphide.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

There is one gut scraping establishment in the district, associated with the Winkleigh Abattoir, and this is satisfactorily operated.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Slaughtering

There is one licensed slaughter house in the district situated at Dolton. All animals killed were inspected and stamped in accordance with the Meat Inspection Regulations 1963.

TABLE A

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

Figures in brackets are for 1970

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep Lambs and Goats	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	62 (141)	— (86)	— (18)	45 (3688)	— (616)	— (—)
Number inspected	62 (141)	— (86)	— (18)	45 (3688)	— (616)	— (—)
All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcases condemned....	— (1)	— (3)	— (4)	— (46)	— (3)	— (—)
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	5 (36)	— (24)	— (3)	7 (1061)	— (38)	— (—)
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	8.06 (26.24)	— (31.40)	— (38.89)	15.56 (30.02)	— (6.66)	— (—)
Tuberculosis only						
Whole carcases condemned	— (—)	(—) (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (4)	— (—)
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (0.65)	— (—)
Cysticercosis						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1 ()	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE B

Summary of Meat Condemnations with cause and weight.

Food Condemned	Weight in lbs.
Due to Tuberculosis :	—
Due to Diseases other than Tuberculosis :	
Parts of 5 Cattle	75
Parts of 7 Sheep	35
	110 lbs.

Condemned meat was disposed of through trade channels for sterilisation.

TABLE C

Condemned Foods.

85 lbs. of Beef
98 Packets of frozen confection (ice creams, lollies etc.)
46 lbs. of other frozen foods.

THE FOOD HYGIENE (General) REGULATIONS 1960

The following is a list of food premises in the district :—

Type of Premises	No.	No. which comply with Regulation 16	No. to which Regulation 19 applies	No. which comply with Regulation 19
Grocery and General Stores	26	26	26	26
Bakers	3	3	3	3
Butchers	4	4	4	4
Public Houses & Hotels	16	16	16	16
Cafes	6	5	6	6

21 Premises are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the sale of ice-cream. No ice-cream is manufactured in the district. 54 visits to food premises were made during the year.

LIQUID EGG (Pasteurisation) REGULATIONS, 1963.

There are no plants in the district.

POULTRY INSPECTIONS

There are no poultry processing premises within the District.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACT

One swill boiling plant is operating in the district and has been licensed. 2 visits were made.

PETROLEUM LICENCES

34 petroleum storage licences were issued during the year.

SLAUGHTERING LICENCES

3 licences were issued during the year to slaughtermen.

BOARDING KENNELS

2 premises are registered under the Act and 4 visits were made to them during the year. Conditions were found to be satisfactory.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT

The following inspections have been carried out under the 1963 Act :-

Type of Premises	Registered in 1967	Total Registered	General Inspection
Offices	—	7	6
Retail Shops	1	15	15
Wholesale Shops & Warehouses	—	1	—
Catering Establishments	—	—	—
Totals	1	23	21

Number of visits of all kinds to registered premises - 84.

No certificates of exemption were issued during the year.

No accidents were reported during 1971.

Persons Employed in Registered Premises

Offices	14
Retail Shops	27
Wholesalers/Warehouses	2
Catering Establishments	5
Canteens	–
Fuel Storage Depots	–
Total	48
Total Males	20
Total Females	28

PLANS

212 plans were submitted during the year, 136 were approved, 63 refused, 13 withdrawn. There were also 102 plans submitted in addition for Building Regulation approval only.

All plans were considered by the Council's Planning Committee after submission to the Divisional Planning Officer of the Devon County Council. A good standard of liaison and co-operation has been reached between the officers concerned.

I attended most of the monthly meetings of the Divisional Planning Committee.

STAFF

Mr. Gane retired from the post of Chief P.H.I. during the year and I would like to thank him for his assistance during the change-over period. Tribute must also be paid to Mr. Marchant and Mr. Johnston for their loyal support and assistance. The willing co-operation and encouragement of the members of the Public Health Committee and other officers of the Council was greatly appreciated.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

B. J. DEAN.